

## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preserving a user state in ~~an~~ a single application used to process transactions to a plurality of users in a stateless online environment, comprising:

providing milestones at predetermined locations within a workflow of the application, each milestone comprising a checkpoint in the runtime execution of the application;

associating a user with a particular milestone; and

automatically transporting the user to the particular milestone when the user logs into the application.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step comprises associating the user with a particular milestone based on a user identification.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising recording the association of the user with the particular milestone in a persistent storage to preserve the user state.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising recording data corresponding to the particular milestone in the persistent storage.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined locations correspond to tasks in the workflow.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step is performed in response to completion by the user of a task in the workflow corresponding to the particular workflow.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting all associations upon completion of the workflow by the user, wherein the application is a web application.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for preserving a user state in ~~an~~ a single application used to process transactions to a plurality of users in a stateless online environment, comprising:

a milestone system for providing milestones at predetermined locations within a workflow of the application, each milestone comprising a checkpoint in the runtime execution of the application;

a user association system for associating a user with a particular milestone; and

a user transportation system for automatically transporting the user to the particular milestone when the user logs into the application.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the user association system records the association of the user with the particular milestone in a persistent storage to preserve the user state.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the user association system further records data corresponding to the particular milestone in the persistent storage.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the user is associated with the particular milestone based on a user identification.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the predetermined locations correspond to tasks in the workflow.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the user is associated with the particular milestone in response to performance by the user of a task in the workflow corresponding to the particular milestone prior to being.

14. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the application is a web application.

15. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable medium for preserving a user state in ~~an~~ a single application used to process transactions to a plurality of users in a stateless online environment, which when executed, comprises:

program code for providing milestones at predetermined locations within a workflow of the application, each milestone comprising a checkpoint in the runtime execution of the application;

program code for associating a user with a particular milestone; and

program code for automatically transporting the user to the particular milestone when the user logs into the application.

16. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the program code for associating records the association of the user with the particular milestone in a persistent storage to preserve the user state.

17. (Original) The program product of claim 16, wherein the program code for associating further records data corresponding to the particular milestone in the persistent storage.

18. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the user is associated with the particular milestone based on a user identification.

19. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the predetermined locations correspond to tasks in the workflow.

20. (Original) The program product of claim 15, wherein the application is a web application.